



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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SETS AND SERIES: FIVE CENTURIES OF MASTER PRINTS February 20 - May 5, 1996

(Cleveland, OH) -- The extraordinary resources of the Cleveland Museum of Art's print collection have been plumbed for a rare exhibition of some of the most famous and beautiful series in the history of printmaking, shown in their entirety. These twelve sets span the 15th through 19th centuries, from the museum's uniquely acclaimed engravings by the anonymous Master of the E-Series Tarocchi, depicting a medieval view of the cosmic order, to Toulouse-Lautrec's series of sympathetic depictions of the lives of prostitutes. **Sets and Series: Five Centuries of Master Prints** will be on view at the museum from February 20 through May 5, 1996. Admission is free.

Throughout the history of printmaking, artists have created, published, and sold many of their prints in a serial format--especially before the invention of motion pictures. Typical subjects include stories from mythology and the Bible, the seven virtues and vices, views and landscapes, the seasons, and the months of the year. A centerpiece of the Cleveland print collection is the complete set of the so-called *Tarocchi Cards*--delicate engravings, hand colored with gold, made by an unknown printmaker in Italy around 1465. Though they bear a superficial similarity to tarot cards, these fifty images were *not* really used to tell fortunes. Instead, they convey a medieval concept of the universe in ascending order: from beggar to pope, followed by the muses, the liberal arts, the virtues, and finally the celestial bodies.

Another rare treasure is Albrecht Altdorfer's set of forty miniature woodcuts, *The Fall and Redemption of Man*, dating from about 1513. For efficiency, eight images were printed on each sheet before it was cut apart and sold. Very few intact sheets survive, but the museum's unique set preserves four per sheet, all outstanding impressions in pristine condition.

Sabine Kretzschmar of the department of prints and drawings, who organized the exhibition, says: "Each of the 140 prints on view here can be seen--and often is seen on

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exhibition here or elsewhere--as a stand-alone work of art. This exhibition aims to restore the aesthetic impact originally intended by each artist. In every case, the whole proves so much greater than the sum of the parts."

Ms. Kretschmar will give gallery talks in the exhibition during its closing week, on Wednesday, May 1, at 1:30 pm; on Thursday, May 2, at 2:30 pm; and on Sunday, May 5, at 1:30 pm.

A complete list of the series included in the exhibition follows:

Master of the E-Series Tarocchi (Italian, Ferrara, active around 1465)

Tarocchi Cards, around 1465, engravings hand-colored with gold

Albrecht Dürer (German, 1471-1528)

The Life of the Virgin, around 1500-11, published 1511, woodcuts

Albrecht Altdorfer (German, about 1480-1538)

The Fall and Redemption of Man, about 1513, woodcuts

Jan Saenredam (Dutch, 1565-1607)

Three Goddesses (after Hendrick Goltzius), engravings

Wenceslaus Hollar (Bohemian, 1606-1677)

The Seasons, about 1643-44, etchings

Herman van Swanevelt (Dutch, about 1600-1655)

The Flight into Egypt, about 1652-54, etchings and engravings

Antonio Canal, called Canaletto (Italian, 1697-1768)

Views of Venice and the Environs, published 1744, etchings

Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes (Spanish, 1746-1828)

The Bulls of Bordeaux, 1825, lithographs

Max Klinger (German, 1857-1920)

A Glove, published 1880, etchings

Odilon Redon (French, 1840-1916)

Homage to Goya, published 1885, lithographs

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (French, 1864-1901)

Elles, published 1896, color lithographs

Adolf von Menzel (German, 1815-1905)

Essay on Stone with Brush and Scraper, published 1851, lithographs

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Sabine Kretzschmar

Sabine Kretzschmar joined the staff of the Cleveland Museum of Art as a graduate intern in 1988 and has served as curatorial assistant in the department of prints and drawings since 1989. In that capacity, she has been very active in creating exhibitions, organizing one to two shows each year covering a range of themes and media. Her most recent exhibition, **Sets and Series: Five Centuries of Master Prints** (1996), drew attention to printmakers' use of graphic arts for series of images, and to the wealth of such complete sets in the Cleveland Museum's print collection.

For the exhibition **Transformations in Cleveland Art, 1796-1946**, curators William H. Robinson and David Steinberg asked Ms. Kretzschmar to curate the section called **Art for Everyone: The Cleveland Print Makers and the WPA**, devoted to a key aspect of Cleveland's 20th-century art history, the prints of the 1930s. She also authored the chapter bearing the same title in the exhibition's accompanying book. In addition to this project, she is currently working on an exhibition exploring Dutch and Flemish landscapes from 1450 to 1650, to be held in conjunction with a symposium at the museum in the fall of 1996 called "In Detail: New Studies in Northern Renaissance Art."

Ms. Kretzschmar obtained her M.A. in museum studies and art history at Case Western Reserve University, twice receiving the Stone Fellowship, and her B.A. in art history from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

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